

SENATE BILL 2978

By Fowler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
relative to disclosures concerning infections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

68-11-263.

Each facility regulated under this chapter with an average daily census of at least
twenty-five (25) inpatients or outpatients shall join the Center for Disease Control's
National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance/National Healthcare Safety Network
(NNIS/NHSN) surveillance system within one hundred twenty (120) days of when it
becomes open to the facility's type of license in order to unify reporting systems and to
benchmark against a national standard. Such facilities shall report their information on a
web site maintained by Centers for Disease Control.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

68-11-264.

(a) The commissioner of health shall establish a task force in order to clarify the
Interpretive Guidelines for Reporting Unusual Events with regard to Class I and Class II
surgical site infections. The commissioner shall make appropriate appointments,
including a chair, to the task force. The task force shall report to the commissioner on its
progress no later than one year after its appointment.

(b) The committee established by the department of health to report in response
to chapter 323 of the Public Acts of 2005 shall continue to meet at least biannually in

order to evaluate the reporting of health care acquired infections and make recommendations to the department and the Tennessee Improving Patient Safety Coalition for improvements in patient safety efforts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.